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Please add the following claims:

-- 49. (New) A method for whitening the teeth of a subject comprising the steps of
applying to the teeth a composition comprising an alkalizing agent having a pH of
between about 7 and about 10, and
contacting the teeth with a mixture comprising a hydrogen peroxide precursor compound
in an amount effective to whiten teeth.

50. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the alkalizing agent is selected from the
group consisting of sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, and ammonium carbonate.

51. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the composition is a rinse, paste or gel.

 52. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein the composition is buffered in a manner
to maintain tooth surface pH between about 7 and about 10.

53. (New) The method of claim 49 wherein tooth surface pH is maintained at a pH of
between about 7 and about 10.

54. (New) A method for whitening the teeth of a subject comprising the steps of
applying to the teeth a composition comprising an alkalizing agent having a pH of
between about 7 and about 10, and
contacting the teeth with a mixture comprising hydrogen peroxide in an amount effective
to whiten teeth.

55. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the alkalizing agent is selected from the
group consisting of sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, and ammonium carbonate.

56. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the composition is a rinse, paste or gel.

57. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein the composition is buffered in a manner
to maintain tooth surface pH at between about 7 and about 10.

58. (New) The method of claim 54 wherein tooth surface pH is maintained at a pH of between about 7 and about 10.

59. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the composition comprising an alkalizing agent is a rinse, paste or gel.

60. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein the composition comprising an alkalizing agent is buffered in a manner to maintain tooth surface pH at between about 7 and about 10.

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cont.
61. (New) The method of claim 24 wherein tooth surface pH is maintained at a pH of between about 7 and about 10.

62. (New) The method of claim 33 wherein the composition comprising a member selected from the group consisting of potassium phosphate, sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, and ammonium carbonate is a rinse, paste or gel.

63. (New) The method of claim 36 wherein the composition including a member selected from the group consisting of potassium phosphate, sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, and ammonium carbonate is a rinse, paste or gel. --
